IN THE CLAIMS

1-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable medium having instructions to cause a machine to perform a method of managing a switchable bilateral electronic negotiation, the method comprising:

facilitating a first active negotiation between a first party and a second party, wherein facilitating the first active negotiation includes exchanging multi-attribute offers between the first party and the second party;

facilitating a first inactive negotiation between the first party and a third party, wherein facilitating the first inactive negotiation includes receiving a submitted multi-attribute offer from the third party;

automatically dropping the first active negotiation between the first party and the second party based on one or more rules relevant to the multi-attribute offers;

facilitating a second active negotiation between the first party and the third party;

facilitating a second inactive negotiation between the first party and the second party;

receiving an indication of an acceptable negotiation associated with the second active negotiation, the indication of an acceptable negotiation indicating that the third party has one last chance to submit a final multi-attribute offer; and

sending a message to the third party requesting the final multi-attribute offer.

33. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein facilitating the first active negotiation includes updating a first negotiation object.

34.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein facilitating the first inactive negotiation includes updating a second negotiation object.

35.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein facilitating the second active negotiation includes receiving a multi-attribute offer from the third party.

36.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the submitted multi-attribute offer is greater than a most recent submitted multi-attribute offer from the second party associated with the first active negotiation.

37.   (Cancelled)

38.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 32 further comprising:

        receiving a retraction of an offer associated with the acceptable negotiation associated with the second active negotiation and retracting the offer associated with the second first-active negotiation.

39-43. (Cancelled)

44.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the one or more rules indicate to automatically drop the first active negotiation if the multi-attribute offer received from the second party is less than a predetermined amount.

45.   (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the one or more rules indicate to automatically drop the first active negotiation if the multi-attribute offer is not received from the second party within a predetermined amount of time.